

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 18 were pending in the application. Claims 9-18 were allowed. Claims 1-11 and 15-18 have been amended. Claims 19-22 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1 - 22 are pending in the application.

Original claims 2-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates Examiner's consideration of these claims.

35 U.S.C § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Talluri (U.S. Patent 5,630,087).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of original claim 2. Applicant submits that independent claim 1 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

Original claims 2, 7, and 8 have been amended. Support for the features recited in amended claim 2 may be found on page 5, lines 2-4 and lines 18-20 of Applicant's specification. Support for the features recited in amended claim 7 may be found on page 6, line 23 – page 7, line 3 of Applicant's specification and in original claim 9. Support for the features recited in amended claim 8 may be found on page 7, lines 4-8 of Applicant's specification.

Applicant respectfully requests examination of added claim 19-22.

New independent claim 19 incorporates features of original claims 1 and 7. New independent claim 20 incorporates features of original claims 1 and 8. New independent claim

21 incorporates features of original claims 8 and 10. Applicant submits that each of these new independent claims recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claims 19-21 are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited reference. New claim 22 incorporates features of original claim 9. Claim 22 depends on new independent claim 21 and is therefore believed to patentably distinguish over the cited reference for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-79300/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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